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RUEHLA RUEHLH RUEHLN RUEHLZ RUEHPOD RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHSR RUEHVK  
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ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 101130Z OCT 08  
FM AMEMBASSY ASTANA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3560  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE 0678  
RUCNCLS/SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0080  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0790  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 1964  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1912  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 2249  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFAAA/DIA WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 0235  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC 0157  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

UNCLAS ASTANA 002019

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KIRF](#) [KZ](#)

SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: HARE KRISHNAS TAKEN TO COURT OVER LEGALITY OF  
STRUCTURES

REF: ASTANA 1863

11. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

12. (SBU) The Almaty Hare Krishna Society will head to court again on October 13 over the plot of land that has been the subject of a long-standing dispute with local authorities. The Karasai District Court will decide whether the community's buildings -- which include living quarters, a barn, and the Krishna's temple -- were lawfully constructed. In August 2008, the Karasai district akimat (local administration) annulled a 2001 order that had deemed the buildings properly constructed and granted the Society use of the structures. As the Society's representative, Maxim Varfolomeyev, explained to us on October 10, the annulment of this order took place shortly after the Society rejected the fifth land plot offered by the authorities in exchange for their current property. (NOTE: As reported in reftel, the Krishnas did not accept the plots because they maintained that the plots were too far from Almaty and did not have necessary amenities like water or electricity. END NOTE.) The courts had ruled previously that the Society did not follow proper procedures in acquiring the land, explained Varfolomeyev, and a court decision deeming the buildings illegal would all but eliminate the Society's claim to the plot.

12. (SBU) Varfolomeyev told us that he believes he has little hope of winning the case. "The government is tired of playing nice," he contended. He argued that if the court decides against the Krishnas, "nothing will stop the akimat from demolition" of the buildings. "We are expecting the worst," he said. Varfolomeyev told us that the community is already trying to plan for how to move the devotees and its 30 head of cattle. "We can always appeal the decision," said Varfolomeyev, but he was doubtful any court would decide in the Krishna's favor.

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